

*ACTEON ELOISEAE*, A NEW OPISTHOBRANCH FROM ARABIA

R. Tucker Abbott

Delaware Museum of Natural History  
Greenville, Delaware 19807

In 1970, Dr. Donald Bosch of the American Mission Hospital in the Muscat obtained eight specimens of an undescribed species of *Acteon*. Unfortunately, soft parts were not preserved, although one shell contained a dried operculum. When the radulae are known it may be possible to place properly this species which closely resembles members of the genus or subgenus *Maxacteon* Rudman, 1971. I take great pleasure in naming this species after the discoverer's wife, Eloise Bosch.

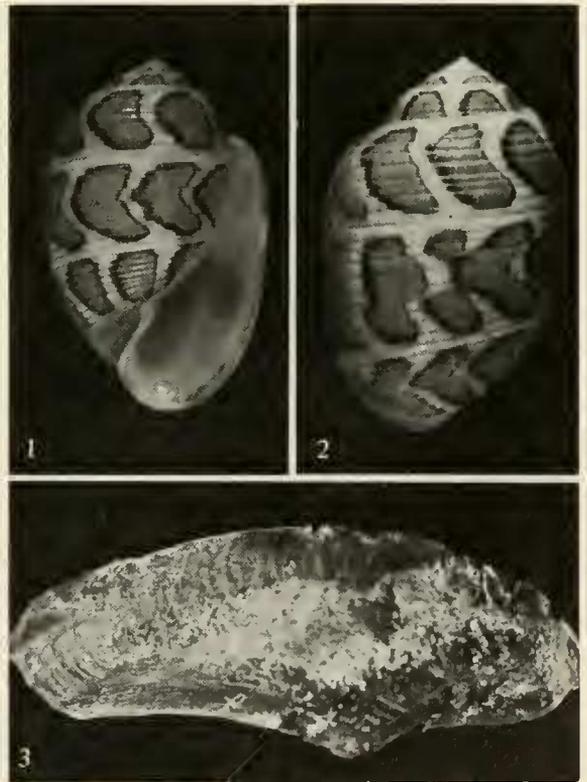
*Acteon eloiseae* new species, Abbott

Figs. 1-4

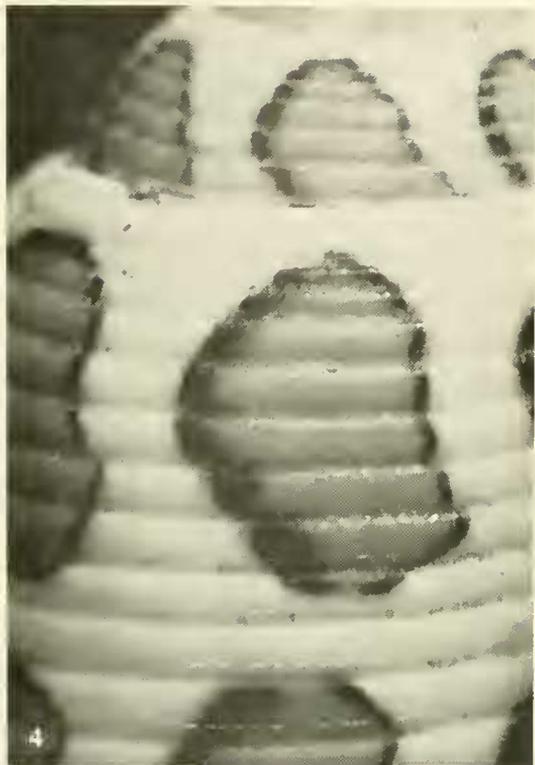
*Diagnosis*—Adult shell 30 to 35 mm, stoutly ovate, solid, spirally and closely grooved, with about 7 whorls and a low spire. Color white with 3 spiral rows of large rose-colored, crescent-shaped, irregular splotches, each of which is bordered by a strong black line. Columella white, with one spiral cord. It is most similar to *Acteon flammeus* (Gmelin) but the latter is smaller, less obese, with more numerous axial flames of color which are lacking the black borders.

*Description*—Shell 30 to 35 mm in length (1 3/8 inches), stoutly ovate, solid, with a deep but minute umbilicus; whorls 7 to 8; nuclear whorls 2, smooth, white. Postnuclear whorls in the spire with 5 to 7 deep, narrow spiral grooves which are crossed by regular, microscopic axial threads giving a pitted appearance. Between the grooves there are raised, slightly rounded cords crossed by numerous weak growth threads. Last whorl with about 30 grooves. Suture slightly channeled. Aperture ovate, narrow above white within. Spire slightly elevated and about 1/3 to 1/4 the length of the shell. Outer lip thin and sharp. Parietal callus thick and translucent white. Columella thick, glistening white and bearing a single, smooth, large, spiral cord which runs back into the aperture. Umbilicus very narrow and deep, well-grooved. Periostracum thin, translucent tan, but thicker in the umbilical

region. Color of shell white, with 3 spiral bands of irregular, crescent-shaped, rose to crimson blotches which are bordered by a narrow black line. The latter is usually wider on the adapertural side. There are 6 to 7 blotches on the top and bottom rows and about 11 in the middle row. Operculum thin, chitinous, translucent amber, elongate, 14 mm in length, 6 mm in width (from a shell 31 mm in length). Nucleus indistinct and at the broader thick end. It resembles the operculum of *Acteon tornatilis* (Linné) in shape.



FIGS. 1-3. *Acteon eloiseae* Abbott, new species, Figs. 1, 2. holotype, Delaware Museum Natural History, no. 27213. 31 mm in length. Fig. 3. Exterior of chitinous operculum, 14 mm in length.



| Measurements (mm) - |       |              |
|---------------------|-------|--------------|
| length              | width | no. whorls   |
| 31.0                | 19.5  | 7.0 holotype |
| 34.8                | 22.2  | 8.0 paratype |
| 34.6                | 21.5  | 8.0 paratype |
| 34.1                | 21.6  | 8.0 paratype |
| 31.0                | 19.5  | 7.0 paratype |

*Types*—The type locality: Al Masirah Island, Oman Protectorate, southeast Arabia. Collected by fishermen in shallow water near shore, 1970. Holotype in the Delaware Museum of Natural History, no. 27213. Paratypes in Delaware Museum of Natural History, no. 67746, and in the collection of Dr. Donald Bosch.

*Remarks*—*Acteon eloiseae* is a very colorful and attractive species of unusual large size, and is characterized by the three rows of large, black-bordered, rose-colored blotches. Its nearest relative, found in the Indian and southwest Pacific Oceans, *A. flammeus* (Gmelin), differs in having twice as many, narrower, pinkish rose, axial flames of color which lack the black borders. Other curious marine mollusks inhabiting the waters of this island include *Cypraea teuleri* Cazenavette, 1846, and *Cymatium boschi* Abbott and Lewis, 1970.



american malacologists

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
R. Tucker Abbott  
duPont Chair of  
Malacology,  
Delaware Museum  
of Natural History

a national register of living  
professional and amateur  
conchologists

\$12.50

plus biographies of 500 great,  
as well as little-known,  
American malacologists of the past

American Malacologists  
6314 Waterway Drive  
Falls Church,  
Va. 22044

FIG. 4. *Acteon eloiseae* Abbott, new species. Paratype, details of sculpture and color pattern. X6. FIG. 5. Details of sculpture and color pattern of *Acteon flammeus* (Gmelin, 1791) from Praia de Chocas, Mozambique. X6. Photos by the author.